

SLASHERS TAKE THE FIRST GAME

Hawaiians Lose in Hot Contest on the Polo Field.

Hardest Fought Game San Mateo's Have Yet Seen.

(By Federal Wireless Telegraph.)
HILLSBOROUGH, California, March 30.—(Special to The Advertiser)—The San Mateo Slashers will remain the undefeated polo champions of California, judging from the decisive manner in which they beat the All-Hawaiian team by 10½ goals to 5½ on El Cerrito field this afternoon, before a large and fashionable attendance.

Twenty thousand dollars is mentioned as the probable amount that changed hands on the result of the match, which was the highest class polo ever seen here.

Today's event was the first of a series of three matches between the Slashers and Hawaiian players for the handsome Merchants Cup.

The victors wore their laurels with becoming modesty and declared that they regard the result of their next contest with the Islanders as anything but a foregone conclusion, because they are very short of schooled ponies and may not be able to collect enough good mounts to serve them throughout the eight days of fast and hard playing.

A Battle Royal.

The match was a royal battle from start to finish. It undoubtedly was the hardest fought and most exciting contest on a local field. At times the fight waxed so warm that the riders seemed almost reckless.

Rice Knocked Out.

Once during a hard gallop for the ball, the ponies ridden by Will Devereaux of the Slashers and Arthur Rice of the Hawaiians, accidentally collided and both horses and riders went down in a heap. A cry of alarm went up as one of the ponies was seen to roll completely over Devereaux, who lay prostrate on the turf for a moment. Time was called and both players were picked up suffering severely from the mishap. After a brief rest they pluckily remounted and re-entered the game to the cheers of the spectators.

HISTORY OF INVASION

The history of the polo invasion of the mainland by the All-Hawaiians, up to March 17, has been received by Harold Dillingham from Capt. Walter Dillingham of the local players. It forms decidedly interesting reading, being written from the inside and by one who has nothing to learn concerning the great game. Captain Dillingham writes: "I have been putting off from day to day getting down to the work of writing out a little history of the polo trip. We have had so many breaks and misfortunes come to the members of the polo team since we all left home that it has been almost impossible to settle down to the object of our trip. However, I am going to now try and give you a journal account of what we have been up to since the time we arrived in California.

"Mrs. Dillingham and I came south to Coronado on the first of February. We arrived Sunday noon and found that I was scheduled to play in a match that afternoon, at three o'clock. As my riding clothes did not follow me to the hotel for several hours, it was impossible for me to take part in the game, but I accepted the invitation to referee the match. I was glad to get on the field to better judge the speed of the play, as I was anxious to know how fast the game really was. "This match was one made up of men who comprise the Canadian team and from visiting unattached polo players. The game was a good one, but no better than many of our Saturday afternoon matches between the first and second Oahu teams. What particularly struck me was the lack of determination in the riding. By this I mean, the players seemed to go through the motions of riding off rather than taking their men in hand as we do in our inter-island games.

Interest in Ponies.

"Great interest had been taken in the Hawaiian ponies and every effort was made to find out how fast the ponies could run—whether they were handy, or not, etc. Hannon, while talking a great deal, had managed to say very little in regard to the class of work that our ponies could do and had so arranged it that in exercising and schooling the ponies, he had kept well out of sight of the other guests, and the polo players.

"The morning after I arrived, I took the whole string of ponies over on the little practice field and worked them out. Before I had been there long, first one motor and then another arrived on the scene and before the exercise was finished there was quite an audience of interested spectators lined up to see how the ponies behaved.

Watching the Game.

"The following afternoon, a little practice game was arranged and I was invited to take part in this. In the little brushes between our ponies and the others, the Hawaiian horses showed up well. The Canadian team had been making a great showing, having played here all during the month of January, defeating handsily Pasadena and all aggregations of players that were put against them. Our enthusiastic polo fan told me shortly after I

arrived that he would bet any money that Pasadena would beat any team that could be put up against them. "Naturally, I was all eyes to watch the Canadian play, and after seeing them in action I was not a bit discouraged, as their whole combination of team play was composed of a working understanding between their No. One and No. Two, who were fed by hard hitting three and four. Neither No. One nor Two made any attempt to ride their opponents, but relied on an interchange of passes to get away and score.

Surprise the Natives.

"The day after I arrived in Coronado, I had a telegram announcing the safe landing of the rest of the team in San Francisco. The management of Coronado polo asked that two Hawaiians play on the so-called World team against the Coronado team the following Sunday, and the two Canadian forwards, Mr. Carle and Mr. Snowden, were selected to play with the two Hawaiians against Major Ross, the highest goal man in Southern California; Harry Robertson, the best man of the Canadian team; Mr. Orkeley of the Canadian team, and Mr. Huston of Colorado Springs.

"I knew that Frank had been playing polo in Maui and should be in fairly fit condition to play immediately on his arrival. With the few games that he had in the North during January, I figured it would make up for the Sunday match. Great interest was taken in this coming game; there was much talk of seeing some of the Hawaiian players in action. On all games here, betting is quite a feature, and before each match the odds are generally discussed about the hotel. The Coronado team were the favorites two to one.

"The game started off in quite a brisk fashion, but at the end of the second period, Frank and I agreed that if we could find out where our forwards were, so as to be able to pass the ball to them, we would be able to put the middle of the game and we ran up a score, beating the Coronados 12 to 4. Small silver champagne goblets were presented to each of the four on the winning team and the price of Hawaiian stock went up a few points.

Wanted at Pasadena.

"Considerable pressure was brought to bear by Pasadena to get us to come up there for a tournament commencing February 15. We were particularly anxious not to play Canada before the first big tournament game, as we believed that they would be able to get more out of our style of play than we could benefit through playing them. The Pasadena were offering two matches in which Hawaii would be eligible to play and as soon as we were satisfied that the dirt field would not be ruinous to our horses' legs, we decided to go there for the experience of matched play.

Scoring for Fun.

"Major Ross, secretary of the Coronado Country Club and manager of the polo here, arranged with Malcolm Stevenson and Perry Beadleston to come to California and play on the Coronado team in the March tournaments. Mr. Walter Dupee has a string of forty polo ponies here at Coronado, which he has been collecting over a period of years and which are good and speedy, would show well with any ponies in the world. Mr. Dupee agreed to mount these two Easterners, who together with Ross and himself, would make the Coronado team. Mr. Stevenson is a seven-goal man and Beadleston a five-goal man. They played three and four on the Cooperstown team, which won the Eastern championship last year. Stevenson is substitute on the All-American team.

"These men arrived a few days before we were due to leave for Pasadena and it was arranged that the Coronado team was to play a practice game with us on Tuesday morning, February 11, of eight five-minute periods. In spite of the fact that the match was kept quiet, several hundred people were lined up along the boards when we started in and you may be sure that Hawaii was on its toes for a showing against these Easterners, who, with Major Ross and Dupee showed a combined handicap of eighteen goals.

"It was a shame to take the money. We only played seven five-minute periods, but we ran up a score of thirteen goals to four, and had our team in good hand every minute. We had another game with them the day before we left for Pasadena. Played them four periods, ran up a score of nine to nothing. This was where we made a tactical mistake, as you will see later.

Games at Pasadena.

"Our ponies were sent to Pasadena by express in very comfortable standing stall cars and arrived without mishap. The first match at Pasadena was between Santa Barbara and Pasadena for the Hogan Cup. Santa Barbara had the best of the match up to the time of an accident in the sixth period, when they lost a man, and again in the seventh period, when they lost another man, through painful, but not very serious accidents. The Pasadena team won out in the eighth period.

"We played the Boise, Idaho, team on Monday afternoon and the first half of the game we found great difficulty in hitting the ball on the dirt field, as our shots traveled farther than we expected on the passes and it seemed impossible to hit the ball fair in the face. "In the last half, however, things began to go better and we made something like twelve goals in four periods, making the final score eighteen to four. This left Hawaii and Pasadena to play off the finals for the Hogan Cup and the match was scheduled for the following Saturday. The Junior Tournament commenced the next day.

"This tournament was limited to teams of ten goal handicap. Our regular team counts up eleven goals. I withdrew from the team, Sam Baldwin taking my place, which brought the team to ten goals. A man was taken off the Pasadena team and the lesser goal man substituted to bring them within the handicap. Hawaii and Pasadena Junior team then met and Hawaii won with a score of 11 to 4. Santa Barbara then played Boise, and Boise won, having Boise and Hawaii to play for the Junior cups.

"On account of a rainy day at Pasadena, this match was set to be played off at Coronado and Boise defaulted to Hawaii, thus giving Hawaii the cup. The final match for the Hogan Cup, between Pasadena and Hawaii, was played on Saturday afternoon, February 23, and was to be between the two junior teams.

Hard Luck for Hawaii.

"As I entered the front gate late because of the sickness of baby, the ball was thrown in for the first period. At the end of the period, I asked to be allowed to play with the team and the matter was referred to the referee, and permission denied. The game went on, with Hawaii playing a demoralized game, not properly mounted, and not in the proper places to do the best as a team; it seemed impossible for them to get together until the seventh period, when the score stood five to one.

"Here, Hawaii braced and in this period and the last, ran the score up to three and three quarters, when time was called, and the Hogan Cup was won by Pasadena.

"It was hard luck for Hawaii as they deserved to win with the regular formation, or with time to have prepared the junior team for the match, we could have won it hands down. I am sure that Pasadena has regretted the arbitrary action in denying Hawaii a chance to place its first team, under all circumstances. I say this, as Pasadena, in their last match here during the tournament, asked for permission to change a man during the game and the permission was granted.

Beat Canadians.

"We moved our horses back to Coronado and all but myself came to Coronado to make ready for our first regular match. By Tuesday, Lowell was out of danger, and the following Thursday, I came to Coronado to join the rest of the team. Sunday, March 3, we met the Canadians in the first match for the California trophy cup. This is a scratch tournament and for a beautiful silver trophy and four individual cups. Our match with Canada was looked forward to with great interest and the talk of San Diego and Coronado, from bell boys to the mayor, was nothing but the coming match. The international aspect of the game, of course, interested it and you may be sure that all of the Hawaiian team were alive to do or die.

"Hawaii, in spite of the fact that they had been defeated by Pasadena, and had never played anything but a little practice game here, were the favorites against the old-time favorites—the Canadians, and the betting was two to one on Hawaii. We went after them from the start and never lost our hold on the game from the first period to the finish. Frank Baldwin and Harold Castle played particularly well, and it was fortunate for me that Frank was on top of his game, as I felt the two weeks of worry and lack of exercise, so was mighty glad when the game was over, as it was whip and spur for me for six of the eight periods.

Arthur Rice played a first-rate game but was not up to his best form. However, we didn't need any more goals as the score was ten and three-quarters to four and one-half.

"This match out of the way, put us next to play the winner of the First Cavalry, or Boise, Coronado played Pasadena and defeated them by a very large score in a most uninteresting game. The Army beat Boise by a close score. Coronado then played the Army, beating them by 14 to 5, playing Walter Dupee at No. 1. The following Saturday, Hawaii was scheduled to play Coronado in the finals for the California Trophy cups. As a result of the beating which Coronado received in our little practice game, they decided that they would not have a chance against us unless the score was one to take the place of Dupee. Accordingly, he stepped out and Captain Beasley took the place at No. 1. The handicaps of this Coronado team, with Beasley on it, put up twenty goals to our eleven.

A Great Game.

"There was great speculation as to the outcome of this match and while the sympathizers for Hawaii were large in numbers, the betting was two and three to one, against us. While we realized that we had a very strong aggregation up against us, I know that every one of the Hawaiian team felt that if we could pull together, our team work and our physical condition, would put the game over. As we figured it out and stated to our sympathizers, if we could anywhere near hold the Coronado team to their first half of the game, we would beat them in the last half. To our surprise, we ran ahead in goals from the first and at one time, the score was five goals to one and three-quarters. In the fourth period, our ponies failed us and a run on the part of the Coronado's brought the score 5 to 4½ in favor of Coronado. The pace was something frightful. I have never seen better combination play or harder riding than in those first four periods. It was an Eastern combination as against a Western combination, and it was an even stand-off.

Harold Castle had Stevenson running for his life and the battle was largely Stevenson and Beadleston as against Castle and Dillingham. Castle had the harder man of the two, and we stopped practically all of the combination play that made them so brilliant against Pasadena and the Army. Our passes were very much more successful than theirs, and Arthur Rice had Major Ross over the boards and back out of the game. When he got a chance to hit, he was so hurried that there was no distance to his back-hand shots, and he asked Rice not to ride him any harder than he had to, as he was all in. Major Ross, incidentally, is a big powerful man, weighing 190 lbs. Frank was a tower of strength in his back-hand shots and was able to get away from Captain Beasley whenever necessary for him to do so.

Baldwin Crippled.

"We came into the fifth period confident of pulling the game out, and the ball was in sooner than in than we all knew it, and in one of the first rushes, Frank collided with Stevenson, and his leg received a fearful twist and bruise, which in spite of his hard physical condition, was so painful that he screamed out in agony. The game stopped and after examination, Frank said that he would try to go on and did manage to finish the period, although he stopped once and asked to be taken out. One goal was registered on us in this period. With a score of 6 to 4½, Sam Baldwin came in, and as all our ponies had been played once, and were on the repeat, I could not pluck a pony for Sam from the different members of the team and mount him in a forward position, where he should properly play, but I put him in on Frank's pony's back and decided that our only chance was for us to force the attack so hard that we could take the blow off the back as much as possible. This scheme started all right and we got two goals, but could not stand the pace. Coronado, seeing that we were crippled, backed up and pressed us with renewed energy, winning the game by 10½ to 5½.

Warm Praise Earned.

"The best we could say was that it was mighty hard luck, and it hurt us to see the cups go to the other team when we felt that with our full team we could have turned the trick. The game was, I know, a very great surprise to the Easterners and in discussing the matter afterward, with Mr. Stevenson, he said that he would have given anything to have had Harry Payne Whitney, captain of the All America team, here to have seen the match. He said it was one of the hardest games that he had ever played in and that the speed which the Hawaiians maintained throughout the game, was far and away faster than he had any idea we could play. Frank Baldwin was taken home before the game was over and when we reached the hotel, we found him suffering great pain with his leg swollen to twice its natural size. The poor fellow was all shot to pieces over the idea that his dropping out of the game had disorganized us to the point of losing the match, which he felt we had in hand for victory. A large dinner was given that evening by some polo enthusiasts here at the hotel and the Hawaiian team were among the guests. Several speeches were made, of most complimentary character to the defeated team and the talk on all sides was to the effect that the match was the best ever played on these grounds.

All American Trophy.

"The following afternoon, Pasadena and the Canadians played the opening game for the All American Polo Trophy. This is the big \$4000 cup put up by Mr. Spreckels and which is played annually. It has been won by England, Burlingame and other teams in the past, and we were anxious to take the cup to Hawaii. Only the four best teams in the previous tournament were eligible to compete for this trophy, viz., Canada, Hawaii, Pasadena and Coronado. The Canadian team lost Harry Robinson as the result of an accident in a previous game and Mr. Huston of Denver substituted. The match was a close one, won by Pasadena in the ninth period.

Ladies' Nomination.

"Tuesday, there was a so-called cut-in match, 'ladies' nomination' teams. Three teams were made up and played in the name of three different ladies, wives of playing members. The yellow played the blues full periods, then the blues played the whites full periods; then the whites played the yellows full periods; the team making the most goals were declared the winners in the triangle match. Sam Baldwin played on Mrs. Lemp's team and this team won the match. Each member of the team received gold cuff buttons with the Coronado club crest enameled on the same and Mrs. Lemp received a silver cup.

Crowd for Hawaii.

"Wednesday afternoon, we were again lined up against the Coronado team, this time to play for the All American trophy. As Frank was out of the game, we played with Sam Baldwin in his place. The sentiment here at the hotel was so strong in favor of the crippled Hawaiian team that great pressure was brought to bear by polo fans here to induce us to secure one of the best men from Northern California, to play in Frank Baldwin's place. One gentleman came to me Sunday night and said that if I would get Mr. Driscoll to come down from San Francisco and play with us, that he would pay all the expenses of bringing Driscoll and his ponies from San Francisco here and return, and bring them on a special train if necessary to get them here in time for the Wednesday match. The argument was used that the Coronado team had been organized as an all-star aggregation to beat the Hawaiians and we were entitled to use the same tactics to get back at them in this second big tournament.

Stand or Fall.

"We discussed the matter at great length, and then I decided that Hawaii would stand or fall as an Hawaiian team; that with our junior team being none other than the Oahu team of last year, we would go at them in true interisland style. We rearranged our team to best meet the positions of our opponents and consequently did not line up in the order that the Oahu team lined up last August. We played Arthur Rice at one; Sam Baldwin at two; Harold Castle at three and I played back. We put Sam on the handicapped horses we had and he was cautioned and instructed to prevent Stevenson from playing his fancy shots. The betting odds were five to one against us and frankly, it did not seem to me possible that we could hold this aggregation down with our junior formation. Just before the game started, one of the Coronado men walked across the field, leading a goat and my attention was directed to the episode with the remark, 'that they had Hawaii's goat in hand'.

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